(i) Highly scientific Ministries/Departments with hardly any scope for work in the North East;

(ii) The Ministries in whcih case the expenditure in the North East and Sikkim was Nil during the preceding three years prior to the introduction of the Scheme; and

(iii) The Ministries/Departments whose GBS is less than Rs. 10 crores.

Statement

Departments/Ministries which are currently exempted from earmarking 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the North East

1. Atomic Energy
2. Bio-Technology
3. Company Affairs
4. Economic Affairs
5. Expenditure
6. External Affairs
7. Legal Affairs
8. Ocean Development
9. Official Language
10. Personnel & Training
11. Petroleum & Natural Gas
12. Planning
13. Revenue
14. Social Justice & Empowerment*
15. Steel
16. Space
17. Science & Technology
18. Scientific & Industrial Research

* Only 2% of the funds for Scheduled Caste Division (SCD) are allocated to the NE. The Norm of 10% allocation is applied to sectors other than SCD.

Income Tax concessions to senior citizens

1550. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Policy on older persons declared by Government considers every 60+ person as a senior citizen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has repeatedly requested his Ministry to consider 65+ persons as senior citizens instead of 65+;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry still gives Income Tax concessions to 65 only; and

(d) if so, by when the Ministry proposes to give concessions to 65+ persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act, a senior citizen is defined to be a person who is at least 65 years of age at any time during the previous year. The proposal to reduce the existing age-limit was examined during the exercise for the Union Budget 2006-07 and it was not considered feasible to reduce the same.

Collection of borrowers details by CIBIL

1551. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd. (CIBIL) is able to collect the details of borrowers and give the latest position of borrowers;

(b) what action has been taken by RBI against the banks who refuse to divulge information with CIBIL; and

(c) the details of NPAs of scheduled commercial banks and its values?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited is placing the list of defaulters (suit-filed accounts) of Rs. 1 Crore and above and wilful defaulters (non suit-filed accounts) of Rs. 25 lacs and above as on 31st March, 2003 and onwards on its website www.cibil.com. At present Banks and Financial Institutions can share details of the borrower with CIBIL only after obtaining specific consent from the borrower. However, there is no prohibition on disclosure of names of borrowers against whom suits have been filed.

(b) No instance of refusal by any bank to divulge information to CIBIL has been brought to the notice of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, RBI has noticed instances where there is delay on the part of banks/FIs to furnish the credit information to CIBIL. Whenever such complaints are received from CIBIL, RBI takes up the matter with the banks/FIs concerned advising them to forward the desired information without delay.